

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 2130

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, PINT, SCUL, WB, GW

SUBJECT: PROPOSAL FOR BAN ON KSV

1. SUMMARY: IN WAKE OF RECENT SPATE OF VIOLENT INCIDENTS AT BERLIN UNIVERSITIES INSTIGATED BY KOMMUNISTISCHE STUDENTENVERBAND (KSV), AND IN CONTEXT OF UNUSUALLY FIRM REACTION THAT THIS GENERATED, BERLIN SENAT HAS DECIDED, WITH SUPPORT OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO SEEK COOPERATION OF FEDERAL AND LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS TO IMPOSE NATIONWIDE BAN ON KSV AND ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS. SUCH A BAN WOULD IN ALL LIKELIHOOD AROUSE SUBSTANTIAL CAMPUS OPPOSITION--AT LEAST IN BERLIN-- AND PROBABLY CAUSE KSV TO INTENSIFY VIOLENT ACTIVITIES. BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS OPPOSE BAN AND BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ALLIED EMBASSIES TAKE MATTER UP IN BONN GROUP. WE FAVOR EXPRESSING DISPLEASURE AT FAILURE TO BE CONSULTED IN THIS MATTER, BUT SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER IT IS DESIRABLE AT THIS JUNCTURE OPPOSE ACTION FAVORED BY SENAT AND ALL POLITICAL PARTIES IN
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BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

2. UNLIKE PRO-SOVIET BRETHREN AT WEST BERLIN'S UNIVERSITIES, KOMMUNISTISCHE STUDENTENVERBAND (KSV) HAS CONTINUED FOR PAST FEW YEARS TO EMPLOY VIOLENT TACTICS TO ADVANCE ITS GOALS ON CAMPUS AND OFF. PERIODICALLY, CLASSES HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED, PROFESSORS INSULTED AND ASSAULTED, AND UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES PHYSICALLY PREVENTED FROM MEETING-- ALL OF THIS AROUSING NO MORE THAN SPORADIC AND ISOLATED LOCAL PROTESTS. HOWEVER, RECENT INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE ON PART OF KSV, DIRECTED AT NUMBER OF PROFESSORS WHO HAVE BROUGHT SUIT AGAINST DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS, HAS GALVANIZED RESPONSIBLE ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL CIRCLES IN BERLIN INTO REALIZATION OF THREAT THAT KSV REPRESENTS BOTH TO ACADEMIC AND POLITICAL PROCESSES. IN UNPRECEDENTED ACTION, NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYEES AT RADICAL-DOMINATED OTTO SUHR INSTITUTE (POLITICAL SCIENCE) WENT ON STRIKE IN PROTEST AGAINST KSV DECEMBER 5-6, AND ASSEMBLY OF TEACHERS OF INSTITUTE ADOPTED STRONG ANTI-KSV RESOLUTION. FREE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND PAEDAGOGISCHE HOCHSCHULE RECTOR PUBLICLY DENOUNCED KSV CAMPAIGN OF VIOLENCE, AND GOVERNING MAYOR, IN SPEECH IN OBSERVANCE OF TWENTY-FIFTY ANNIVERSARY OF FU, CONDEMNED KSV GOALS AND TACTICS. IN ADDITION, LCCAL CHAPTER OF TEACHERS' UNION ISSUED STRONG DENUNCIATORY RESOLUTION. UNIVERSITIES ARE IN ANOMALOUS POSITION OF BEING OBLIGED UNDER LOCAL LAW TO PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE AND OTHER FACILITIES TO KSV AS A UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATION, DESPITE KSV'S OBSTRUCTIONIST AIMS.

3. SPURRED BY CDU-SPONSORED PARLIAMENTARY MOTION CALLING UPON SENAT TO BAN KSV IN BERLIN, SENAT DECIDED DECEMBER 6 TO REQUEST FEDERAL INTERIOR MINISTER, UNDER HIS ADMINISTRATIVE POWERS, TO IMPOSE NATIONWIDE BAN ON THE ORGANIZATION. IN COURSE OF THREE-HOUR DEBATE ON SUBJECT IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DECEMBER 12, CONSENSUS EMERGED AMONG THREE PARTIES THAT KSV PURSUED ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL AIMS AND SHOULD BE BANNED; DIFFERENCES EXISTED ONLY AS TO MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS. ULTIMATELY CDU WITHDREW MOTION FOR LOCAL BAN IN FAVOR OF SPD RESOLUTION REQUESTING SENAT TO SEEK IMPOSITION OF

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NATIONWIDE BAN THROUGH CONSULTATIONS WITH FEDERAL AND LAENDER INTERIOR MINISTERS. THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

4. DESPITE CURRENT ANTI-KSV WAVE, IMPOSITION OF BAN, WHETHER NATIONWIDE OR LOCAL, MIGHT WELL AROUSE SUBSTANTIAL OPPOSITION AT UNIVERSITIES ON PART OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS DEDICATED TO PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF ASSOCIATION. EFFECT COULD ALSO

BE TO INCITE KSV MEMBERS TO FURTHER VIOLENCE, LEADING PROBABLY TO LARGE-SCALE CONFRONTATIONS WITH POLICE. PRESIDENT KREIBICH OF FU HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT, REGARDLESS OF PRESENT OUTCRY, BAN ON KSV WOULD RALLY STUDENTS TO SUPPORT ITS RIGHT TO EXIST. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT KSV MEMBERS WOULD GO UNDERGROUND, POSING CONTROL PROBLEMS FOR LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, OR CONSTITUTE THEMSELVES AS NEW ORGANIZATION.

5. COMMENT: ALLIED MISSIONS WERE INFORMED OF INTENTION TO SEEK BAN ON KSV ONLY AFTER DECEMBER 6 SENAT SESSION AT WHICH DECISION TAKEN, AND WE INTEND TO EXPRESS DISPLEASURE AT THIS FAILURE TO CONSULT. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT EITHER LOCAL BAN OR FRG BAN EXTENDED TO WEST BERLIN, AND BRITISH HAVE SUGGESTED THAT MATTER BE RAISED IN BONN GROUP. WHILE SENAT MAY BE REACHING TOO QUICKLY TO TOO STRONG MEDICINE, WE QUESTION WISDOM OF ALLIES, AT THIS JUNCTURE, OPPOSING MEASURE SUPPORTED BY SENAT AND ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND DIRECTED AT ELIMINATING DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE ON CAMPUSES.KLEIN

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